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REAL Services to Withdraw From Indiana Pathways for Aging Program Due to Unsustainable Funding Changes

Decision Comes After Extensive Negotiations, Impacting Staff and Services for Aging Hoosiers

South Bend, Ind., - April 25, 2024, REAL Services, a cornerstone in supporting older adults in Northern Indiana, has announced it will not participate in the newly restructured PathWays for Aging program. This decision was driven by a shift in funding that would not cover operational costs, forcing the nonprofit to make tough choices to uphold its financial stability.

Since 1966, REAL Services has worked tirelessly to provide services that enrich the lives of older adults with a mission of helping them maintain their independence to the maximum degree possible. As an area agency on aging (AAA), REAL Services is the trusted local resource for aging Hoosiers in the community, providing information on services available to them and ensuring quality of care. However, starting July 2024, the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) plans to transition these services to managed care health plans under the new PathWays for Aging program.

During months of preparation and negotiation with the managed health plans, it became clear that the prescribed rates for service coordination under PathWays would fall significantly short of the actual costs. Facing a substantial financial shortfall, the board of REAL Services voted to opt out of the program to preserve the agency's long-term sustainability.

This decision will lead to a reduction of 65 staff positions by July 5, 2024. REAL Services is actively assisting affected employees with outplacement services and support during this transition.

Despite this setback, REAL Services will maintain its robust portfolio of more than 25 programs, reaching over 30,000 individuals across Northern Indiana. These initiatives range from meal delivery and transportation services to caregiver support and Alzheimer's and Dementia services, all designed to foster independence and enhance the quality of life for older adults.

About REAL Services:

REAL Services assists in establishing a community in which those we serve can maintain their independence to the maximum degree possible and find meaning and satisfaction throughout their lives. REAL Services offers services in 12 counties across Northern Indiana, including Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, Starke, and St. Joseph.

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